

Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of tracking animal transfers with animal passports, the
2 method comprising:

3 creating an animal passport to represent a transfer of animals from a transferor to a
4 transferee;

5 assigning a unique passport identifier to [[each]] the created animal passport, thereby
6 providing a unique identification of the ~~underlying~~ transfer; and

7 repeating the creating[[,.]] and assigning for each of at least one subsequent transfer of one
8 or more of the animals, wherein the animal passport created for each subsequent transfer also
9 records the unique passport identifier assigned to each most-recent previous transfer of those
10 animals.

1 Claim 2 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein each of the animal passports is
2 signed by a transferor and transferee who are parties to each transfer, thereby certifying the
3 transfer represented by the signed animal passport.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising recording the
2 animal passports in a repository that is maintained by a third party that is distinct from each
3 transferor and each transferee who are parties to any of the transfers.

1 Claim 4 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising using the
2 animal passport identifiers to track locations of the animals.

1 Claim 5 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the animal passports reflect a
2 complete lifetime of the animals and are therefore usable to track transfers of the animals
3 throughout their lifetime.

1 Claim 6 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the animal passports reflect a
2 complete lifetime of the animals and are therefore usable to track locations of the animals
3 throughout their lifetime.

1 Claim 7 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the transfers are transfers of
2 ownership.

1 Claim 8 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the transfers are transfers of
2 possession.

1 Claim 9 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the transfers is a
2 transfer of ownership and at least one of the transfers is a transfer of possession.

1 Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the creating and
2 assigning are also repeated for subsequent transfers of animal products derived from the animals.

1 Claim 11 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the animal passports further

specify individual animal identifications of the transferred animals.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein additional animals are included in one or more of the subsequent transfers, and wherein the animal passport created for such subsequent transfers also records the unique passport identifier assigned to each most-recent previous transfer of those additional animals.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein animal passports are created for each transfer during a lifetime of the animals and further comprising:

recording each of the animal passports in a repository maintained by a third party, wherein each of the animal passports further comprises a specification of how many animals are represented by each transfer, a location of the animals during a timeframe covered by the animal passport, and an identification of one or more transferors and one or more transferees who are parties to each transfer, wherein the third party is distinct from the transferors and the transferees; and

determining a country of origin for one or more selected ones of the animals using each unique passport identifier associated therewith to determine all locations in which the selected ones have been located throughout their lifetime.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein:

each of the animal passports further comprises a specification of how many animals were transferred in the transfer represented by that animal passport, a location of the animals during a

4 timeframe covered by the animal passport, and an identification of one or more transferors and
5 one or more transferees who are parties to that transfer; and

6 further comprising:

7 determining, for a selected one of the animals, all locations in which the selected
8 animal has been located throughout its lifetime, using each animal passport associated with the
9 selected animal; and

10 preparing a country of origin claim for the selected animal, using the determined
11 locations, wherein the country of origin claim indicates whether the selected animal has been
12 located only in a selected country throughout the lifetime of the animal.

1 Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein animal passports are
2 created for each transfer during a lifetime of the animals and further comprising:

3 recording each of the animal passports in a repository, wherein each of the animal
4 passports further comprises a specification of how many animals are represented by each transfer,
5 a location of the animals during a timeframe covered by the animal passport, and an identification
6 of one or more transferors and one or more transferees who are parties to each transfer;

7 constructing a chain of transfers for a selected one of the animals using each of the most-
8 recent previous unique passport identifiers recorded on the animal passports associated with the
9 selected animal, thereby determining all locations in which the selected animal has been located
10 throughout its lifetime; and

11 verifying a country of origin claim for the selected animal by comparing the determined
12 locations to one or more locations stated in the country of origin claim.

1 Claim 16 (currently amended): A system for uniquely identifying transfers of animals transferred
2 in groups, the system comprising:

3 a unique identifier associated with each transfer of a group of animals;

4 a repository for recording the unique identifier of each of the transfers, along with a
5 specification of how many animals are in the group and an identification of one or more
6 transferors and one or more transferees who are parties to the transfer; and

7 linkage from each subsequent transfer of any of the animals to a most-recent prior transfer
8 of those animals, the linkage comprising a specified association between a new unique identifier
9 associated with each such subsequent transfer and the unique identifier of the prior transfer.

1 Claim 17 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 16, wherein the linkage enables
2 tracing transfers of a subset comprising one or more of the transferred animals by accessing, for
3 each of the transfers of the animals in the subset, the specified association between the unique
4 identifier of the most-recent prior transfer and the new unique identifier of the subsequent transfer
5 for that subset.

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for identifying transfers of groups of animals from birth
2 to death, comprising:

3 associating a unique identifier with a transfer of animals transferred from an original owner
4 thereof;

5 associating a different unique identifier with each subsequent transfer of the animals or any

6 subset thereof; and

7 linking, at each subsequent transfer, the different unique identifier with the unique
8 identifier associated with a most-recent previous transfer of the animals in that subsequent
9 transfer.

1 Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein additional animals
2 are included in one or more of the subsequent transfers, and wherein the unique identifier of the
3 most-recent previous transfers of those additional animals is also linked with the different unique
4 identifier of the subsequent transfer.

Claim 20 (canceled)

1 Claim 21 (new): A method of providing country of origin claims, the method comprising:
2 completing, for each of a plurality of transfers of one or more animals from transferors to
3 transferees, a passport document to represent the transfer, wherein each of the passport
4 documents has associated therewith a unique passport identifier, thereby providing a unique
5 identifier for the transfer, further comprising:

6 specifying, on the passport document, a count of the animals transferred,
7 descriptive information for the animals transferred, and a location of the transfer;

8 specifying, on the passport document, the unique passport identifier associated
9 with any previous passport document completed to represent a previous transfer of the animals
10 transferred; and

11 signing the passport document, by the transferor and the transferee, thereby
12 certifying the transfer;

13 recording each of the transfers in a repository maintained by a third party who is distinct
14 from the transferors and the transferees, further comprising:

15 creating an entry in the repository for each of the transfers, each of the entries
16 comprising the unique passport identifier associated with the passport document representing that
17 transfer, the count of the animals transferred, the descriptive information for the animals
18 transferred, the location of the transfer, and the unique passport identifier associated with any
19 previous passport document completed to represent a previous transfer of the animals transferred;
20 and

21 using the entries in the repository to determine, for a selected one of the animals, whether
22 a country of origin claim can be made stating that the selected one was always physically located,
23 from its birth to its death, in a particular country by comparing, in each of the entries that pertains
24 to transferring the selected animal, the location to the particular country.